

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

18. (currently amended) In the ~~The~~ method for assembling a fence brace assembly of claim 17, wherein the improvement further comprises the said ~~the said~~ sealing ~~is done~~ using a silicone ~~silicon~~ sealer.
24. (currently amended) The fence brace assembly of claim 1, wherein the sealer is a silicone ~~silicon~~ sealer.